

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing descriptions of audiovisual content, the method comprising:
  - creating a first description of audiovisual content;
  - defining information pertaining to reuse of the first description; and
  - storing the first description and the information pertaining to reuse of the first description in a repository of descriptive data to enable subsequent reuse of the first description.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first description is a semantic description.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the first description is a description scheme.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the information pertaining to reuse of the first description indicates whether the first description can be embedded into a second description of audiovisual content without changing an intended meaning of the first description.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the information pertaining to reuse of the first description indicates whether the first description can be divided into a

plurality of partial descriptions, each of the plurality of partial descriptions being suitable for subsequent reuse.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the information pertaining to reuse of the first description indicates whether the first description can be transformed when reused to create a second description of audiovisual content.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the information pertaining to reuse of the first description indicates whether the first description can maintain transitive capability if the first description is reused to create a second description of audiovisual content.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
reusing a plurality of descriptions stored in one or more repositories of descriptive data a number of times to provide de facto standardization of the plurality of descriptions by category.

9. A method for reusing descriptions of audiovisual content, the method comprising:

finding existing descriptive data that should be included in a new description of audiovisual content;  
analyzing reuse information associated with the descriptive data; and

creating the new description using the existing descriptive data and the associated reuse information.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the new description is a semantic description.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the new description is a description scheme.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the descriptive data is at least a portion of one or more existing descriptions of audiovisual content.

13. The method of claim 9 further comprising:  
retrieving the descriptive data from one or more repositories of descriptive data.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein creating the new description further comprises:

converting the existing descriptive data into a partial description; and  
mapping the partial description to the new description.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein creating the new description further comprises:

accessing a portion of the existing descriptive data in a repository of descriptive data; and

mapping the portion of the existing descriptive data to the new description.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein creating the new description further comprises:

performing dictionary mapping of objects in the existing descriptive data to corresponding objects in the new description.

17. The method of claim 9 wherein creating the new description further comprises:

including a reference to the existing descriptive data into the new description.

18. The method of claim 9 wherein the new description is created using a mechanism for performing graph operations.

19. The method of claim 9 wherein the new description is created using an object oriented inheritance mechanism.

20. The method of claim 9 wherein creating the new description further comprises:

extracting the existing descriptive data from a semantic mosaic that integrates a plurality of related descriptions.

21. A method for dynamically reusing descriptions of audiovisual content, the method comprising:

creating a first description of audiovisual content;  
defining reuse information associated with the first description; and  
reusing the first description to create a second description of modified audiovisual content based on the reuse information, the reuse being performed concurrently with creation of the modified audiovisual content.

22. A system for processing descriptions of audiovisual content, the system comprising:

means for creating a first description of audiovisual content;  
means for defining information pertaining to reuse of the first description;  
and  
means for storing the first description and the information pertaining to reuse of the first description in a repository of descriptive data to enable subsequent reuse of the first description.

23. An apparatus comprising:

a description processor to create a first description of audiovisual content;

a reuse information creator to define information pertaining to reuse of the first description; and

a repository of descriptive data to store the first description and the information pertaining to reuse of the first description to enable subsequent reuse of the first description.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the first description is a semantic description.

25. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the first description is a description scheme.

26. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the information pertaining to reuse of the first description indicates whether the first description can be embedded into a second description of audiovisual content without changing an intended meaning of the first description.

27. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the information pertaining to reuse of the first description indicates whether the first description can be divided into a plurality of partial descriptions, each of the plurality of partial descriptions being suitable for subsequent reuse.

28. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the information pertaining to reuse of the first description indicates whether the first description can be transformed when reused to create a second description of audiovisual content.
29. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the information pertaining to reuse of the first description indicates whether the first description can maintain transitive capability if the first description is reused to create a second description of audiovisual content.
30. A system for reusing descriptions of audiovisual content, the system comprising:
- means for finding existing descriptive data that should be included in a new description of audiovisual content;
- means for analyzing reuse information associated with the descriptive data; and
- means for creating the new description using the existing descriptive data and the associated reuse information.
31. An apparatus comprising:
- a reuse module to find existing descriptive data that should be included in a new description of audiovisual content and to analyze reuse information associated with the descriptive data; and

a description processor to create the new description using the existing descriptive data and the associated reuse information.

32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the new description is a semantic description.

33. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the new description is a description scheme.

34. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the descriptive data is at least a portion of one or more existing descriptions of audiovisual content.

35. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the new description is created using a mechanism for performing graph operations.

36. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the new description is created using an object oriented inheritance mechanism.

37. A system for dynamically reusing descriptions of audiovisual content, the method comprising:

means for creating a first description of audiovisual content;

means for defining reuse information associated with the first description;

and

means for reusing the first description to create a second description of modified audiovisual content based on the reuse information, the reuse being performed concurrently with creation of the modified audiovisual content.

38. An apparatus comprising:

a description processor to create a first description of audiovisual content;

and

a reuse information creator to define reuse information associated with the first description, the description processor to reuse the first description to create a second description of modified audiovisual content based on the reuse information, the reuse being performed concurrently with creation of the modified audiovisual content.

39. A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising:

creating a first description of audiovisual content;

defining information pertaining to reuse of the first description; and

storing the first description and the information pertaining to reuse of the first description in a repository of descriptive data to enable subsequent reuse of the first description.

40. A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising:

finding existing descriptive data that should be included in a new description of audiovisual content;  
analyzing reuse information associated with the descriptive data; and  
creating the new description using the existing descriptive data and the associated reuse information.

41. A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising:  
creating a first description of audiovisual content;  
defining reuse information associated with the first description; and  
reusing the first description to create a second description of modified audiovisual content based on the reuse information, the reuse being performed concurrently with creation of the modified audiovisual content.

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